

Senate File 287 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 287
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 166)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to tampering with witnesses or jurors, and
2 providing penalties.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 720.4, Code 2023, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **720.4 Tampering with witnesses or jurors.**

4 A It shall be unlawful for a person who offers to offer any
5 bribe to any person who the offeror believes has been or may be
6 summoned as a witness or juror in any judicial or arbitration
7 proceeding, or any legislative hearing, ~~or who makes to make~~
8 any threats toward such person or ~~who~~ forcibly or fraudulently
9 ~~detains~~ detain or ~~restrains~~ restrain such person, with the
10 intent to improperly influence such witness or juror with
11 respect to the witness' or juror's testimony or decision in
12 such case, or to prevent such person from testifying or serving
13 in such case, or ~~who~~, in retaliation for anything lawfully
14 done by any witness or juror in any case, ~~harasses~~ to harass
15 such witness or juror~~r~~. A person who violates this section
16 commits an aggravated misdemeanor a public offense that shall
17 be classified and punished as an offense one degree higher
18 than the underlying offense, but in no case shall the public
19 offense be classified and punished lower than an aggravated
20 misdemeanor.

21 EXPLANATION

22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill relates to tampering with witnesses or jurors, and
25 provides penalties.

26 Current law provides that a person who tampers with a witness
27 or juror commits an aggravated misdemeanor. An aggravated
28 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than two
29 years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than \$8,540.

30 The bill provides that a person who tampers with a witness
31 or juror commits a public offense that shall be classified and
32 punished as an offense one degree higher than the underlying
33 offense. In no case shall the public offense be classified and
34 punished lower than an aggravated misdemeanor.